

# Crossing the 49<sup>th</sup>

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Advice for  
Canadians  
Travelling  
to the  
United States

2000



The Consular Service of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) is committed to providing effective and efficient services throughout the world to all Canadians.

To obtain more information or additional free copies of this booklet, visit your nearest Passport Office, check the Travel section of the DFAIT Web site (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>), or write to:

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the 49<sup>th</sup>*

**Advice for  
Canadians Travelling  
to the United States**

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## Before You Go

Canadians travel. And they travel to the United States in greater numbers and with greater frequency than to anywhere else. The neighbourhood is a shared one. As a former prime minister remarked, "We are not in the same boat, but we are pretty much in the same waters."

We may easily forget that the border — mainly the 49th parallel — is an international frontier. The United States is a foreign country.

It is simple to cross the border. It is equally easy to use the new arrangements for North America-wide business and commerce. In fact, the day is not far off when many Canadians will use something the size of a credit card to complete U.S. entry formalities in seconds.

Still, many Canadians do not make adequate preparations for entering the United States. As a result, they encounter serious problems. What was meant to be a visit for pleasure or profit becomes a difficult, nightmarish and (for some) tragic experience.

The Consular Affairs Bureau of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and Canadian diplomatic missions in the United States help thousands of such Canadians. Their problems range from the simple ("I'm in West Virginia; how do I get out?") to the complex ("I've been arrested...").

U.S. entry requirements and procedures could change or differ from some of the information provided here. If you have an unusual situation concerning entry into the United States, you should obtain authoritative information from the U.S. authorities immediately before your visit. For more information, consult the U.S. embassy Web site (<http://www.usembassycanada.gov>) and select "Traveling to the U.S.?" from the menu.

Every effort has been made to provide you with accurate and up-to-date information. If you have a problem, call us. We are open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. See the For More Information section for contact numbers.

## Be Prepared

Every trip begins at home. What you do before you leave — and the more you do — will help ensure a trouble-free visit.

U.S. entry requirements for Canadians are neither onerous nor complex. Nevertheless, they are legal requirements. To travel in ignorance or with an “it won't happen to me” mentality, or to expect that your lack of preparation will be overlooked, is to seek trouble. And many who seek will find.

The preparations you must make and the information you require depend on the reason for your visit and the length of time you expect to be in the United States. If you are simply crossing the border to fill your gas tank or shop for a few hours and have done so before, your preparations can be minimal. But if you are going for several weeks or months, if you are moving permanently, or if your visit involves remunerative work, you need to prepare carefully.

## First Things First

### *Identification*

The most important formality on entering the United States is giving proof of citizenship. Typically, U.S. officials have been willing to accept anything from a driver's licence or birth certificate to a Canadian Tire credit card. Increasingly, however, Canadians are being required to show identification that includes a photo and proves their right to re-enter Canada.

Every Canadian should carry a valid Canadian passport for all trips outside Canada, including

those to the United States. Your passport is the most widely accepted form of identification available. It confirms your identity and your right to re-enter Canada.

Travelling Canadians may find it difficult to enter, pass through or return from the United States if they do not have valid photo identification and proof of citizenship. All carriers (noticeably airlines, but also Amtrak and Greyhound) have become much stricter about requiring proof of admissibility to Canada as a result of the heavy fines they face for carrying

inadmissible passengers. Since birth and baptismal certificates, for example, do not have photographs, they are no longer accepted by airline companies without accompanying valid photo identification. Even carriers taking Canadians from Canada to the United States on round-trip tickets have refused to return them to Canada without valid photo identification and proof of Canadian citizenship.

As a result, many travellers have had to contact Canadian diplomatic missions in the United States for assistance. When this happens, the mission has to verify documentation with provincial and federal authorities, which involves further delay. In light of these difficulties, when you travel to the United States, and indeed to all countries, remember that a Canadian passport is still the best internationally accepted evidence of your Canadian citizenship and the best possible photo identification. Carrying your Canadian passport is recommended for all visits to the United States.

### ***Dual Nationality***

Some Canadians may have U.S. as well as Canadian citizenship through birth in the United States or through naturalization or descent.

Although this is not likely to create problems — and in fact may solve some — it is wise for you to understand your status under U.S. law.

Canadians who are also U.S. citizens should always identify themselves as U.S. citizens when entering the United States. For information on dual nationality, consult the Dual Nationality section in the American Citizen Information Services Web site (<http://www.amcits.com>).

### ***Criminal Records***

If you have a criminal record, no matter how minor or how long ago the offence, you are probably not eligible to enter the United States. There may also be problems in transit through U.S. airports. Under U.S. law, a Canadian pardon does not cancel a criminal conviction.

If you have a criminal conviction, you should contact one of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (USINS) ports of entry well in advance of travel to the United States. If you are ineligible to enter the United States, you may apply for a waiver of ineligibility. This will involve completing Form I-192, "Advance Permission to Enter the United States." It may take several months to process your application.



Waiver application forms are available from any port of entry to the United States or from the U.S. embassy in Ottawa. Call the main number at **(613) 238-5335**, press 2 for the Departmental Listing, and then 6 for U.S. Immigration. Follow the voice mail instructions to receive a package by mail.

For answers to questions about waivers, members of the general public can call the USINS office in Buffalo at **(716) 551-4741, ext. 6810**, on Friday mornings from 8:00 to 12:00.

U.S. ports of entry are computerized and connected to a centralized database. Information is readily available on criminal convictions in both Canada and the United States. Even though you may have entered the United States without hindrance in the past, you could run into difficulty if your record shows a criminal conviction or a previous denial of entry. Attempting to gain entry without a waiver could result in several weeks of detention at a USINS facility.

If you left the United States to avoid military service during the Vietnam war and have not since regularized your status, there might be an outstanding warrant for your arrest or you might be ineligible for U.S. entry.

If you are in doubt, check with the nearest USINS port of entry.

If you need information about regularizing your status with the U.S. military, you can call the U.S. embassy in Ottawa at **(613) 238-5335** and select "Defence Relations" from the Departmental Listing voice mail menu.

### ***Travel with/by Children***

U.S. and Canadian authorities and transportation companies are increasingly vigilant in questioning persons travelling with children. If you are planning to travel to the United States with a child, you should carry documentation such as a custody order or a letter certifying that you have the legal right to bring the child with you. You might need to prove your custody rights for very young children. Also, persons under the age of 18 who are travelling on their own should carry documentation showing that they have the permission of custodial parents.

As well, if there is a possibility of a custody dispute developing while you are away with your child, you should talk to a Canadian lawyer before leaving home. A special publication, *International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*,

is available from DFAIT. See the For More Information section for details on how to order a copy.

### ***International Adoptions***

If you are thinking of adopting a child from another country, you must first contact the authorities of the province or territory in which the child will reside. While adoption is a provincial/territorial responsibility, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) is responsible for allowing an adoptive child into Canada. Entry into Canada can be refused if the child does not hold an immigrant visa. An immigrant visa for the child will not be issued without the prior approval of the province/territory. Obtaining this approval from outside the country can be a difficult and lengthy process; agreement may be denied even if the adoption has already been completed.

For more information, contact your provincial/territorial authorities or a CIC call centre at:

Montreal — **(514) 496-1010**

Toronto — **(416) 973-4444**

Vancouver — **(604) 666-2171**

For toll-free access anywhere else in Canada, call **1-888-242-2100** or check the CIC Web site (<http://www.cic.gc.ca>).

### ***Medical Matters***

If you have a medical condition, you should check with your doctor or a Health Canada travel medicine clinic for advice and guidance. You should also do the following:

- Carry a supply of prescription medication along with a copy of your prescription giving both the generic and trade names.
- Ensure that such medicines are kept in their original containers. If your medicine is unusual, check whether it is available in the United States.
- Carry an extra pair of prescription glasses or contact lenses and a copy of your prescription.
- Take all the precautions you would at home to avoid infection with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Using intravenous drugs is illegal and dangerous — especially if you share needles.

- If you use syringes for medical purposes, carry a supply to last you through your trip along with a medical certificate showing they are for medical use.
- Seek advice from your doctor if you are pregnant.

If you have a pre-existing medical condition that could present a

problem while you are travelling, it is wise to wear a MedicAlert® bracelet. Through the MedicAlert® Foundation, your vital medical facts become part of a database that can be accessed 24 hours a day from anywhere in the world. Call **1-800-825-3785** for membership information or visit the MedicAlert® Web site (<http://www.medicalert.ca>).

## Drugs

The U.S. Zero Tolerance Policy imposes severe penalties for the possession of even a small amount of an illegal drug. Even prescription drugs and syringes used for legitimate medical purposes come under intense scrutiny.

- Never carry a package or luggage for someone else unless you have been able to verify the contents completely.
- Choose your travelling companions wisely. Never cross the border with a hitchhiker or as a hitchhiker. Though you may not be carrying anything illegal, your companions might be and you could be implicated.
- Be equally careful about who and what you carry in your vehicle. As the driver, you could be held responsible for the misdeeds of your passengers, even if committed without your knowledge or involvement.

## Money Matters

Canadian currency and traveller's cheques are not widely or easily negotiable in the United States; nor are personal cheques drawn on Canadian banks. Accordingly, you should purchase traveller's cheques in U.S. dollars before you leave Canada. All major credit cards are accepted throughout the United States, but only a few banking machines will accept Canadian bank cards. Despite these difficulties, do not carry large amounts of cash.

No limit is placed on the amount of money that travellers may legally bring into or take out of the United States. However, if on any occasion you carry more than US\$10,000 in monetary instruments (such as U.S. or foreign coin, currency, traveller's cheques, money orders, and negotiable instruments or investment securities in bearer form) into or out of the United States, or if you receive more than that amount while in the United States, you must file a report (Customs Form 4790) with U.S. Customs. Failure to comply can result in civil and criminal penalties, including seizure of the currency or monetary instruments.

## Insurance

### Medical Insurance

It is unlikely that your medical insurance in Canada will cover all or most of the costs you might incur for medical services in the United States. Moreover, you might have to pay for services in advance.

Before leaving, all Canadians planning to visit the United States — for whatever length of time — are advised to purchase medical insurance for travel outside Canada. Out-of-country medical insurance is available through travel agents or directly from insurers listed in the Yellow Pages™. Check the following points when purchasing medical insurance for trips outside Canada:

- Are foreign hospitals and related medical costs paid directly, or are you required to pay and seek reimbursement later?
- Does the insurance cover medical evacuation back to Canada along with any required medical escorts?
- Are pre-existing medical conditions covered?

- Are premature births and related neonatal care covered?
- Will the insurer provide a cash deposit in advance if a hospital requires it?
- Does the insurance cover costs associated with a death abroad, including the return of remains to Canada?
- Does the insurer maintain a service centre open 24 hours a day, seven days a week?

You should carry a copy of your insurance policy along with the telephone contact numbers of the insurer's service centre. This information should also be left with a friend or relative at home or with your travelling companion. If you require medical services, obtain a detailed invoice from the doctor or hospital before returning home.

### Automobile Insurance

If you are entering the United States by personal automobile, you should check with your insurance agent to verify that your existing coverage is valid or sufficient for the U.S. areas you will be visiting and for the duration of your visit. If you are going to remain in a specific location in the United

States for a considerable period of time, you should verify with the local authorities that your vehicle registration and driver's licence will remain valid.

Many states have mandatory automobile insurance requirements, and many require motorists to carry appropriate proof of insurance. Each state's motor vehicles department can give you more specific information. The American Automobile Association (AAA) and the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) can provide more detailed information to their members. See the Automobiles subsection of the For More Information section for details on the CAA and AAA.

### Other Insurance

Theft, lost luggage and flight cancellations are frequent occurrences and can cause major disruptions in your travels. You may wish to purchase a travel insurance package that will help you in the event of such inconveniences.

### Pets

When examined at a port of entry, cats and dogs must show no signs of diseases communicable to humans. If there is evidence of poor health, an examination by a



licensed veterinarian might be required, at the expense of the owner. Vaccination against rabies is not required for cats. Except for puppies under three months of age, dogs must be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days before entry. Other animals are also subject to controls; further information may be obtained from the U.S. Customs Web site (<http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/index.htm>).

### ***U.S. Customs***

Very specific U.S. regulations govern what you may bring into the United States. These cover gifts, alcohol, tobacco and vehicles. Also included are various prohibited and restricted items such as lottery tickets, liquor-filled candy, seditious and treasonable materials, obscene or pornographic materials, products made by convicts or forced labour, and products, such as ivory, made from endangered species. Switch-blade knives are prohibited, except those owned by persons with one arm.

A non-resident may bring in merchandise worth up to US\$200 free of duty for personal or household use. On visits of 72 hours or more, you may carry an additional US\$100 worth of merchandise free of duty as gifts for other people. However,

there are restrictions. Further information can be obtained by phoning a U.S. Customs office or consulting the U.S. Customs Web site (<http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/index.htm>).

### ***Transit for Cruises***

Many Canadians enter the United States on their way to join sea cruises to other countries. You must have a valid Canadian passport for such a trip. Some of the countries you may be visiting will not permit entry without a passport. A passport is also important to re-enter the United States at the end of the cruise.

Ship authorities may retain your passport during the cruise, in accordance with their own administrative regulations and to facilitate clearance with U.S. Immigration. Passengers should obtain a receipt for their passport, and the passport should be returned at the end of the cruise.

### ***Canadian Taxation Status***

If you are living or travelling in the United States but maintain residential ties in Canada, you are usually considered a **factual resident** of Canada for taxation purposes. However, many complicated issues

and differing situations are involved, and you should review your situation with the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) to avoid surprises. The CCRA publication *Canadian Residents Going Down South* provides information for individuals. It may be viewed on the CCRA Web site (<http://www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca>) or ordered by calling **1-800-461-9999**. You can also get general information about the CCRA, as well as copies of departmental publications and forms, through their Web site.

## U.S. Taxation Status

If you are a Canadian resident spending part of the year in the United States, you could be considered either a resident alien or a non-resident alien for U.S. taxation purposes. Resident aliens are generally taxed in the United States on income from all sources worldwide; non-resident aliens are generally taxed in the United States only on income from U.S. sources. It is important, therefore, for you to determine your status by contacting the U.S. authorities.

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## Working in the United States

As a Canadian legally entering the United States for remunerative work, you must have the proper authorization. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) makes cross-border movement easier for four specific types of business persons who are citizens of the member countries: business visitors, professionals, traders and investors, and intra-company transferees. Chapter 16 of the NAFTA complements rather than replaces existing immigration laws and regulations concerning temporary entry. The NAFTA does not alter the general immigration provisions as they affect public

health, safety and national security.

Both Canada and the United States have publications containing information on U.S. entry for Canadians under the NAFTA. The Canadian government publication *Cross-Border Movement of Business Persons and the North American Free Trade Agreement* is available from the Enquiries Service at DFAIT or online (<http://www.infoexport.gc.ca/nafta/cross-border/16006-e.asp>). The U.S. publication *The North American Free Trade Agreement*

— *The United States, Canada and Mexico* is available from USINS offices.

Under the NAFTA, certain Canadian **professionals** are permitted entry to engage in business activities at a professional level; included are accountants, engineers, librarians, social workers, psychologists, teachers and zoologists. A full listing of the professions covered is found in the NAFTA pamphlets referred to in the preceding paragraph.

There are specific U.S. requirements for a Canadian entering as a **visitor for business**, a **treaty trader**, a **treaty investor** or an **intra-company transferee**. In each case you must meet established legal requirements.

**Truck drivers** and other persons involved in inter-country transportation are permitted entry to transport goods or passengers to or from a point in the United States. After entry, they are not permitted to pick up additional cargo or passengers for delivery within the United States.

If you are entering the United States to fulfil an **after-sales** service contract that was part of a commercial agreement, you should carry appropriate documentation, such as

the master contract and the service agreement. For more details, please consult the same two NAFTA publications noted above.

**Spouses or dependants** who accompany business persons qualified under the NAFTA can work in the United States only if they independently qualify either under the NAFTA or under the general foreign worker provisions, including a labour certification test.

**Canadian tradespersons** such as carpenters, electricians and plumbers are not covered by the NAFTA and are not permitted to enter the United States for remunerative work, unless they qualify independently under the general immigration provisions applicable to all foreign workers.

**Performing artists** such as members of Canadian entertainment groups in a creative field (for example, music, opera, dance theatre or the circus) who have a signed contract with an enterprise in the United States require a temporary employment visa. Information on how to proceed is available in the DFAIT publication *Canadian Performers: How to Enter the United States*, or in the Travel section of the Department's Web site (<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>).

As well, staff at the Canadian Consulate General in New York can provide advice and guidance.

Canadians planning to enter the United States for **marriage** or **immigration** purposes should call one of the following numbers for additional information:

**1-900-451-6330** (recording) or **1-900-451-6663** (to speak to a visa specialist). You may also consult the USINS Web site (<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>).

Canadians planning to enter the United States for long-term work should contact the USINS.

Canadians travelling to the United States to perform **volunteer work** may require a work permit, especially if the employer pays any related expenses such as travel or room and board. Such individuals have on occasion been refused entry at the border. Others have been refused entry after admitting to U.S. immigration officers that they have previously performed volunteer work in the United States. It is wise to discuss your specific situation with the USINS to avoid potential problems.

For more information on working abroad, consult the DFAIT publication *Working Abroad: Travelling the Maze*. See the

For More Information section for details on how to order this publication.

## *Studying in the United States*

Canadian citizens do not need to obtain visas in advance to enter the United States as **students**. They should, however, have the following ready for presentation to the U.S. Immigration officer at the port of entry:

- Form I-20 (Certificate of Eligibility), issued by the U.S. school and sent directly to the applicant;
- documentary evidence of sufficient funds to cover travel, tuition and living expenses in the United States;
- evidence that the applicant has a residence outside the United States and has no intention of abandoning it; and
- evidence of scholastic and linguistic proficiency for the academic programs to be undertaken in the United States.

## Being There

### *Admissibility and Entry*

As soon as you stop at the U.S. border or at an inland port of entry, you are subject to U.S. law. U.S. Immigration can refuse entry to persons with criminal records or persons who cannot demonstrate that they have a legitimate reason to enter the United States.

Generally, the criteria for admissibility as a temporary visitor include, but are not limited to: proof of citizenship; evidence of residential, employment and/or educational ties to Canada; legitimate purpose for the trip; reasonable length of stay; and proof of financial support while in the United States. In a nutshell, this “test” helps tell whether you are travelling for legitimate reasons, have the financial resources for your travel and living expenses, and intend to return home. The U.S. official at the point of entry is the sole judge of your admissibility. Under U.S. law, as an alien detained at the border by Customs or Immigration, you do not have the right or privilege of contacting your lawyer.

The permanent U.S. record created when a Canadian has been refused entry to the United States becomes

part of a computerized database readily available at all land border and inland ports of entry, as well as at USINS pre-clearance facilities in Canada. An initial refused entry does not necessarily mean you are banned from entering the United States in the future. At the time of refusal you will normally be advised of the requirements you have to meet to re-apply for entry (such as obtaining a “waiver” or producing documentation supporting your intention to return to Canada at the end of the trip). If, however, you attempt to enter the country at another port of entry without first trying to satisfy these requirements, you could be fined or your vehicle seized, or both. There are appeal procedures but they are prolonged, costly and unlikely to reverse the original decision. If you have a past criminal conviction, you could also be detained for deportation at a USINS detention centre.

What you say in response to questioning by Immigration or Customs officers can be used against you if you are considered inadmissible. Many persons have had their vehicles or vessels seized because they pretended to be Canadian citizens when they were actually landed immigrants or visitors to Canada.



Others have lost vehicles or vessels because they carried passengers who pretended to be Canadian citizens, or who did not admit to having a criminal record, or who pretended to be visitors while planning to look for work in the United States. As a driver, you can be held responsible for the misdeeds of your passengers regardless of knowledge or association.

At a pre-clearance facility in Canada, you may choose to withdraw your request to enter the United States if border officials are questioning your application. This step can be taken before you are interviewed further or your belongings are searched. Despite your taking this approach, U.S. officials may, nonetheless, make a record of your attempted entry on the U.S. Immigration database. The option to withdraw your application for entry is rarely available at land border or inland ports of entry, since at that point you are already on U.S. soil.

### ***Expedited Removal***

Canadians travelling to the United States should take note of a relatively new U.S. Immigration procedure. As of April 1, 1997, "expedited removal" allows an Immigration agent, with the

concurrence of a supervisor, to bar non-citizens from the United States for five years if, in their judgment, the individuals presented false documentation or misrepresented themselves. Canadians should be aware that lying to a border official is a serious offence.

Expedited removal is part of comprehensive reforms intended to control illegal immigration. There is no formal appeal process under expedited removal, but, if you believe the law has been misapplied in your case, you can request a supervisory review by writing to the USINS district director responsible for the port of entry where the decision was made. Cases of possible misapplication should also be brought to the attention of the Consular Affairs Bureau of DFAIT at **1-800-387-3124** or **(613) 943-1055** (in Ottawa) or the nearest Canadian diplomatic mission.

### ***Pre-clearance***

Under a Canada-U.S. agreement, U.S. Immigration has pre-clearance facilities at seven Canadian airports: Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal (Dorval) and Ottawa. To allow sufficient time for the pre-clearance process when you

## Precautions

The same rules apply in the United States as at home, only more so. You are usually at greater risk than locals; indeed, in some areas of the United States, tourists and non-locals could be targeted. Accordingly, you should follow these rules:

- Know where you are and where you are going at all times. Carefully plan road trips in advance.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers.
- Keep valuables out of sight, and never leave them in a parked vehicle.
- Leave a copy of your itinerary and proof of citizenship (for example, Canadian birth certificate or certificate of Canadian citizenship) with a family member or friend who can be contacted in an emergency.
- Phone home regularly if you do not have a fixed schedule.
- Keep a separate record of your traveller's cheques, credit cards and medical insurance, and ensure that the information is also available to someone back home.
- Do not carry your passport, tickets, identification documents, cash, credit cards and insurance papers together. Keep them separate so that in the event of theft or loss you do not lose everything.
- Use the safety deposit box at your hotel. Never leave valuables in your room.

are travelling to the United States from these airports, you should be at the U.S. Immigration desk at least one hour before your flight. Pre-clearance facilities are also available at the Victoria, British Columbia, ferry terminal for travel to Port Angeles in Washington state.

Again, you should allow extra time for this process.

As a Canadian using U.S. pre-clearance facilities, you are still required to meet U.S. entry requirements. American officials here are authorized to inspect your luggage

and can refuse you entry to the United States. While you are on Canadian soil, you have rights under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, subject to Canadian law, including those laws governing drugs and guns. Refusal to co-operate with U.S. officials may result in your being refused entry to the United States. As noted above, at a pre-clearance site you may choose to withdraw your request to enter the United States if border officials are questioning your application.

### ***U.S. Border Fees***

American border officials collect a US\$6 per-person fee, payable only in U.S. dollars, to issue an Arrival/Departure Document, Form I-94. This form is distributed to Canadian citizens and landed immigrants from member countries of the Commonwealth and Ireland who are entering the United States to study or work and to visitors from other countries. The fee does not apply to Canadian citizens and landed immigrants from member countries of the Commonwealth and Ireland who are entering the United States on temporary visits for business or pleasure, or to travellers arriving in the United States by air.

### ***Crime and Punishment***

In the United States, you are subject to U.S. laws and regulations. Possession, use or trafficking of illegal drugs can lead to a lengthy jail sentence; serious violations can lead to the death penalty.

**Canadian citizenship confers no immunity, special protection or rights to preferential treatment.**

If you are arrested in the United States, you have the right to speak with a Canadian consular officer or to have the nearest Canadian diplomatic mission informed of your arrest, or both. Under Article 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, arresting authorities in the United States are required to inform Canadian citizens of this right without delay. Most U.S. jurisdictions provide the services of a lawyer if you cannot afford one. Do not make any special arrangements with the police or prosecutors without the advice and guidance of your lawyer.

The civil and criminal justice systems in the United States differ significantly from those in Canada. For instance, each U.S. state has its own criminal code, and sentences tend to be longer, especially for crimes involving violence, drugs or "white collar" offences. As a

foreigner, you might have difficulty obtaining bail.

In many jurisdictions in the United States, there is only limited eligibility for parole if you are convicted. Also, as a foreigner, you might have limited opportunity while in prison for further education or training. After conviction and settlement of all appeals, Canadian prisoners in most (but not all) U.S. jurisdictions can request transfer to a Canadian prison under the Transfer of Offenders Treaty. The processing of applications is lengthy, and many transfer requests are refused.

### ***Canadian Consular Assistance in the United States***

The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade has a number of diplomatic offices in the United States. The embassy is located in Washington, and there are consulates in Atlanta, Boston, Buffalo, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York and Seattle. There is an honorary consul in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The Australian consulate general in Honolulu, Hawaii, will assist Canadians in an emergency. At each of these offices there are consular and trade officers (for business travel related to the NAFTA) available to help you.

In co-operation with the Consular Affairs Bureau in Ottawa, these offices provide a range of services to assist you during your visit. The services include:

- advice and support in the event of accident, crime or illness;
- communication with relatives and friends;
- assistance during natural disasters;
- support and assistance in the event of a death;
- identification of sources of information on local laws, regulations and facilities;
- in the event of an arrest, seeking equitable treatment, informing relatives and friends, and assistance in making arrangements for a lawyer; in the event of a conviction, assistance in applying for transfer to Canada under the Transfer of Offenders Treaty;
- making arrangements for friends and relatives to transfer funds in emergencies;
- interventions with local authorities;

- notarial services such as legalization and certification of documents (a fee is charged for these services);
- assistance in locating missing persons;
- emergency passport services; and
- citizenship services.

Services are available during normal business hours from the Canadian diplomatic office nearest your U.S. location. If you are in Canada you may contact the Consular Affairs Bureau in Ottawa.

### ***Passport Services***

Canadian diplomatic missions in the United States provide only emergency passport services (for example, assistance for travel to a third country in the event of a death in the immediate family). Full passport services are available through the Central Passport Office in Hull, Quebec, for mail-in applications. Processing mail-in applications mailed from Canada or the United States usually takes 10 working days if all information and documentation have been provided. Walk-in passport service

is available at 28 regional passport offices across Canada. Processing walk-in applications usually takes five working days.

Passport applications are available at passport offices and post offices in Canada and at Canadian diplomatic missions in the United States. There are separate forms for adults and children, both available in English or French.

### ***Emergency Consular Services***

Canadian diplomatic missions offer 24-hour assistance. During non-office hours, a telephone call you make to a Canadian diplomatic office in the United States will automatically be transferred to a consular officer in Ottawa or you will be asked to leave a message on an answering machine. In either case, there will be a prompt response. If you leave a recorded message, make sure that it is clear and that you leave a telephone number or a full contact address. In addition, in an emergency, you can make a collect call to DFAIT in Ottawa, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at **(613) 996-8885**.



## Returning Home

### *Canada Customs*

On re-entering Canada you must declare everything acquired abroad, whether purchases for yourself or gifts for others. Included are goods bought at Canadian or U.S. duty-free shops. Keep all your receipts for possible inspection by a Canada Customs officer.

If you have been away from Canada for 24 hours or more, you may bring back goods worth up to C\$50 without paying duties or taxes. This does not include alcohol or tobacco. If you have been away from Canada for 48 hours or more, you may bring back goods worth up to C\$200 without paying duties or taxes. These goods can include tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, as described below. If you have been away from Canada for seven days or more, you may bring back goods worth up to C\$750 without paying duties or taxes. These goods can include tobacco products and alcoholic beverages, as described below. In calculating the number of days you are absent, do not include the date you leave Canada, but include the date you return.

If you have been away from Canada for 48 hours or more, you may bring back up to 1.14 litres of liquor, or 1.5 litres of wine, or a case of 24 bottles/cans of beer, each containing 12 ounces (355 ml). You may also bring back up to 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars or cigarillos, 200 tobacco sticks and 200 grams of manufactured tobacco. Provincial age restrictions apply to liquor and tobacco products.

Certain other goods are subject to restrictions. Contact Canada Customs in advance for guidance on importing meat or dairy products, weapons, plants, vehicles, or exotic animals or products made from their skins, feathers or bones. Obscene materials, hate propaganda and goods harmful to the environment may not be brought into Canada.

If you have lived outside Canada for more than a year, you may take advantage of special import provisions for household items and personal belongings when you move back to Canada. Details are found in the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) publication *Moving Back to Canada*.

If you have any questions about what you can bring home, visit the CCRA Web site (<http://www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca>) or call your local Canada Customs office. These can be contacted 24 hours a day throughout the year from inside Canada at **1-800-461-9999**.

### ***Import of Firearms***

Rigid rules apply to the import of firearms into Canada. For more information, contact the Canadian

Firearms Centre (CFC) by telephone at **1-800-731-4000**, by e-mail at **Canadian.firearms@justice.x400.gc.ca**, or visit the CFC Web site ([www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca](http://www.cfc-ccaf.gc.ca)).

### ***If You Have Been Ill***

If you were ill while away or become ill after returning home, you should contact your doctor and provide the details of where you travelled and what treatment you received while away, if any.

## **For More Information**

### ***The Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade***

Internet:  
<http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>

For consular assistance and emergency consular services:  
Tel.: **(613) 996-8885**  
Fax: **(613) 995-9221**  
or **(613) 943-1054**

For travel information:  
Tel.: **1-800-267-6788** in Canada  
or **(613) 944-6788**  
Fax: **1-800-575-2500** in Canada  
or **(613) 944-2500**

### **Publications**

*Bon Voyage, But... Information for the Canadian Traveller*

*Canadian Performers: How to Enter the United States*

*China (Including Hong Kong): A Guide for Canadian Visitors*

*A Guide for Canadians Imprisoned Abroad*

*Her Own Way: Advice for the Woman Traveller*

*International Child Abductions: A Manual for Parents*

*México: ¿Qué pasa? A Guide for Canadian Visitors*

*Retirement Abroad: Seeing the Sunsets*

*Teaching English in Korea*  
(Internet only)

*Working Abroad: Unravelling the Maze*

These safe-travel publications can be accessed and ordered free of charge through the Travel section of the DFAIT Web site. They are also available by calling **1-800-267-8376** (in Canada) or **(613) 944-4000**.

### *Country Travel Reports*

Travel Reports providing information on safety and security conditions, health issues and entry requirements for over 220 travel destinations can be accessed from the Travel section of the DFAIT Web site, by phone at **1-800-267-6788** (in Canada) or **(613) 944-6788**, or by fax at **1-800-575-2500** (in Canada) or **(613) 944-2500**. This information is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

## ***The Passport Office***

Internet: <http://www.ppt.gc.ca>

### **Locally you can call:**

Montreal and area:

**(514) 283-2152**

Ottawa-Hull and area:

**(819) 994-3500**

Toronto and area:

**(416) 973-3251**

Vancouver and area:

**(604) 775-6250**

Toll-free:

**1-800-567-6868**

Telephone device for the deaf (TDD):

**(819) 994-3560**

From the United States:

**(613) 994-3500**

**Mailed-in applications** should be sent to:

Passport Office

Department of Foreign Affairs

and International Trade

Ottawa ON K1A 0G3

**For urgent requirements**, you may courier your application to:

Passport Office

6th Floor, Place du Centre

200 Promenade du Portage

Hull, QC J8X 4B7

**Walk-in service** (please consult the federal government section of the telephone directory for the street address):

*Newfoundland:* St. John's

*Nova Scotia:* Halifax

*New Brunswick:* Fredericton

*Quebec:* Jonquière, Sainte-Foy, Montreal, Saint-Laurent, Laval, Hull

*Ontario:* Ottawa, Scarborough, Toronto, North York, Mississauga, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Kitchener, London, Windsor, Thunder Bay

*Manitoba:* Winnipeg

*Saskatchewan:* Regina, Saskatoon

*Alberta:* Calgary, Edmonton

*British Columbia:* Richmond, Surrey, Vancouver, Victoria

### ***Canadian Government Offices in the United States***

**Atlanta:** Territory includes Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Canadian Consulate General

1175 Peachtree Street NE

100 Colony Square, Suite 1700

Atlanta GA 30361-6205

Tel.: **(404) 532-2000**

Fax: **(404) 532-2050**

E-mail: **atnta@dfait-maeci.gc.ca**

**Boston:** Territory includes Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Consulate General of Canada

3 Copley Place, Suite 400

Boston MA 02116

Tel.: **(617) 262-3760**

Fax: **(617) 262-3415**

E-mail: **bostn@dfait-maeci.gc.ca**

Internet: **<http://www.boston.gc.ca>**

**Buffalo:** Territory includes Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and the western and northern counties of New York state.

Consulate General of Canada

3000 HSBC Center

Buffalo NY 14203-2884

Tel.: **(716) 858-9500**

Fax: **(716) 852-4340**

E-mail: **bfalo@dfait-maeci.gc.ca**

Internet: **<http://www.canada-congenbuffalo.org>**

**Chicago:** Territory includes Illinois, Indiana (counties of Jasper, Lake, Laporte, Newton and Porter), Missouri and Wisconsin.

Consulate General of Canada

2 Prudential Plaza

180 North Stetson Avenue

Suite 2400

Chicago IL 60601

Tel.: **(312) 616-1860**

Fax: **(312) 616-1877**

E-mail:

**chcgo-cs@dfait-maeci.gc.ca**

Internet:

**<http://www.canadachicago.net>**

**Dallas:** Territory includes Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Consulate General of Canada

St. Paul Place

750 North St. Paul Street

Suite 1700

Dallas TX 75201-3247

Tel.: (214) 922-9806

Fax: (214) 922-9815

E-mail: [dalas@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:dalas@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

Internet:

<http://www.canada-dallas.org>

**Detroit:** Territory includes Indiana (except for the counties covered by Chicago), Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.

Consulate General of Canada

600 Renaissance Center

Suite 1100

Detroit MI 48243-1798

Tel.: (313) 567-2340

Fax: (313) 567-2164

E-mail: [dtrot@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:dtrot@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

Internet: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~detroit>

**Honolulu:**

Consulate General of Australia

Bishop Trust Building

Penthouse Suite

1000 Bishop Street

Honolulu HI 96813-4299

Tel.: (808) 524-5050/5054

Fax: (808) 531-5142

**Los Angeles:** Territory includes Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah.

Consulate General of Canada

550 South Hope Street, 9th Floor

Los Angeles CA 90071-2627

Tel.: (213) 346-2700

Fax: (213) 620-8827

E-mail: [lngls@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:lngls@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

Internet:

<http://www.cdnconsulat-la.com>

**Miami:** Territory includes Florida.

Consulate of Canada

200 South Biscayne Boulevard

Suite 1600

Miami FL 33131

Tel.: (305) 579-1600

Fax: (305) 374-6674

E-mail: [miami@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:miami@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

**Minneapolis:** Territory includes

Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota,

Montana, Nebraska, North and

South Dakota and Wyoming.

Consulate General of Canada

701-4th Avenue South, Suite 900

Minneapolis MN 55415-1899

Tel.: (612) 333-4641

Fax: (612) 332-4061

E-mail: [mnpls@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:mnpls@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)

Internet: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/minneapolis>

**New York:** Territory includes

Connecticut, New Jersey and the eastern and southern counties of New York state.



Consulate General of Canada  
1251 Avenue of the Americas  
Concourse Level  
New York NY 10020-1175  
Tel.: (212) 596-1628  
Fax: (212) 596-1666/1790  
E-mail: [cngny@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:cngny@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)  
Internet: <http://canada-ny.org>

**San Juan, Puerto Rico:** Territory includes Puerto Rico.  
Consulate of Canada  
107 Cereipo Street  
Alturas de Santa Maria  
Guaynabo PR 00969  
Tel.: (787) 759-6621  
Fax: (787) 294-1205

**Seattle:** Territory includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.  
Consulate General of Canada  
412 Plaza 600  
Sixth Avenue and Stewart Street  
Seattle WA 98101-1286  
Tel.: (206) 443-1777  
Fax: (206) 443-9662  
E-mail: [seatl@canada-seattle.org](mailto:seatl@canada-seattle.org)  
Internet:  
<http://www.canada-seattle.org>

**Washington:** Territory includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.  
Embassy of Canada  
501 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington DC 20001  
Tel.: (202) 682-1740  
Fax: (202) 682-7726

E-mail:  
[wshdc.consul@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:wshdc.consul@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)  
Internet:  
<http://www.canadianembassy.org>

## ***Canada Customs and Revenue Agency***

### **Customs**

*Canadian Residents Going Down South*

*I Declare*

*Importing a Firearm into Canada*

*Importing a Motor Vehicle into Canada*

*Moving Back to Canada*

These publications may be obtained free of charge by writing to: Communications Branch, Canada Customs and Revenue Agency, Ottawa ON K1A 0L5, by calling **1-800-461-9999** (in Canada), or through the Agency Web site (<http://www.ccra-adrc.gc.ca>). Copies are also available from your local Customs office and from Canadian diplomatic missions in the United States.

## Taxation

### *Canadian Residents Abroad*

This publication may be obtained free of charge through the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency Web site, or by calling Canada's International Tax Services Office at **1-800-267-5177** (in Canada) or **(613) 952-3741**.

### **International Tax Services Office**

Canada's International Tax Services Office processes the income tax returns of non-residents, deemed residents and Canadians posted overseas. It also services all non-resident tax withholding accounts. The Office provides client assistance by telephone, correspondence and counter service. It may be reached by telephone from anywhere in Canada or the United States at the following numbers:

General enquiries:

**1-800-267-5177**

Non-resident withholding:

**1-800-267-3395**

Problem resolution:

**1-800-661-4985**

### **By mail:**

2204 Walkley Road  
Ottawa ON K1A 1A8

### **By fax:**

**(613) 941-2505**

## ***Food Products***

### *Don't Bring It Back*

This publication may be obtained free of charge by writing to: Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Public and Media Relations, 59 Camelot Drive, Nepean ON K1A 0Y9, or by calling **(613) 225-2342**.

Internet:

**<http://www.cfia-acia.agr.ca>**

## ***Endangered Species***

To determine what you can and cannot legally bring back to Canada and whether a permit is required, contact Environment Canada by telephone at **(819) 997-1840** or by fax at **(819) 953-6283**.

More information is available on Environment Canada's Web site, the Green Lane (**<http://www.ec.gc.ca/enforce/homepage/wildlife/english/cites.htm>**).

## ***Citizenship***

### ***Dual Citizenship***

#### ***How to Prove You Are a Canadian Citizen***

These publications may be obtained from the Internet site of the Public Affairs Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada (<http://www.cic.gc.ca>), or by calling **(613) 954-9019**.

### ***Social Security***

Canadian citizens seeking information on the Canada-United States Agreement on Social Security should contact:

Human Resources Development Canada, Income Security Programs Branch, International Operations  
333 River Road

10th Floor, Tower A  
Vanier ON K1A 0L4

Tel.: **(613) 957-1954**

(in Ottawa) or

**1-800-277-9914** (English)

**1-800-277-9915** (French)

(Canada or United States)

Fax: **(613) 952-8901**

## ***Health Issues***

### ***Basic Facts About AIDS***

This booklet may be obtained by writing to:

Canadian HIV/AIDS Clearinghouse,  
1565 Carling Avenue, Suite 400,  
Ottawa, ON K1Z 8R1, or by  
calling **(613) 725-3434**.

Internet: <http://www.cpha.ca/cpha.docs/ch/basic.html>

### ***Children Abroad***

#### ***International Travel and Health (2000): Vaccination Requirements and Health Advice***

These publications are available by writing to:

Canadian Public Health Association,  
1565 Carling Avenue, Suite 400,  
Ottawa, ON K1Z 8R1, or by  
calling **(613) 725-3769, ext. 190**.

### ***Health Information for Canadian Travellers***

A free copy of this publication may be obtained by writing to:  
Canadian Society for International Health, 1 Nicholas Street,  
Suite 1105, Ottawa, ON K1N 7B7,  
by calling **(613) 241-5785**, or by  
e-mailing [csih@csih.org](mailto:csih@csih.org).

## **Automobiles**

The AAA publishes the *Digest of Motor Vehicle Laws* annually. Also available through the CAA, the book provides detailed information on the rules of the road in each U.S. state. Both the CAA and the AAA will supply information to members over the telephone during normal business hours. Look in your local telephone directory for the nearest office. (The CAA and AAA have a reciprocal membership agreement.)

## ***U.S. Government Offices in Canada***

The U.S. Department of State maintains a number of diplomatic offices in Canada. The embassy is located in Ottawa, and there are consulates general in Calgary, Halifax, Montreal, Quebec City, Toronto and Vancouver. At each, there are U.S. consular officers available to help you with problems. Or consult the embassy's Web site (<http://www.usembassycanada.gov>) and select "Traveling to the U.S.?" from the menu.

**Ottawa:** Consular district includes eastern Ontario, western Quebec and Baffin Island.

Embassy of the United States of America

Consular Service

490 Sussex Drive

Ottawa ON K1N 1G8

Tel.: **(613) 238-5335**

**1-800-283-4356**

**Calgary:** Consular district includes Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories.

U.S. Consulate General

615 Macleod Trail SE

Calgary AB T2G 4T8

Tel.: **(403) 266-8962**

**Halifax:** Consular district includes New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

U.S. Consulate General

Suite 910, Cogswell Tower

Scotia Square

Halifax NS B3J 3K1

Tel.: **(902) 429-2485**

**Montreal:** Consular district includes southwestern Quebec.

U.S. Consulate General

1155 rue Saint-Alexandre

Montreal QC H2Z 1Z2

Tel.: **(514) 398-9695**

**Quebec City:** Consular district includes eastern Quebec and Nunavut.

U.S. Consulate  
2 Place Terrasse Dufferin  
P.O. Box 939  
Quebec City QC G1R 4T9  
Tel.: **(418) 692-2095**

**Toronto:** Consular district includes western Ontario.

U.S. Consulate General  
360 University Avenue  
Toronto ON M5G 1S4  
Tel.: **(416) 595-1700**

**Vancouver:** Consular district includes British Columbia and Yukon.

U.S. Consulate General  
1095 West Pender Street  
Vancouver BC V6E 2M6  
Tel.: **(604) 685-4311**

### ***U.S. Entry Waivers***

Canadian citizens requiring waivers to enter the United States should phone the USINS office serving their area:

Montreal	<b>(514) 631-2097</b>
Ottawa	<b>(613) 523-2105</b>
Toronto	<b>(905) 676-2563</b>
Winnipeg	<b>(204) 783-2340</b>
Calgary	<b>(403) 221-1730</b>
Edmonton	<b>(780) 890-4486</b>
Vancouver	<b>(604) 278-2520</b>

### ***U.S. Immigration***

For general information, members of the public can call the USINS office in Buffalo at **(716) 551-4741, ext. 4101**, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00, or access the USINS Web site (<http://www.ins.usdoj.gov>).

### ***Entry under the NAFTA***

There are free trade specialists at the U.S. ports of entry listed below who may be able to give you detailed information and the necessary documentation you require. However, the specialists cannot guarantee the admission of any applicant.

Albany NY	<b>(518) 431-0339</b>
Buffalo NY	<b>(716) 551-4741</b> <b>ext. 3</b>
Calais ME	<b>(207) 454-2547</b>
Calgary International Airport	<b>(403) 221-1602</b>
Champlain NY	<b>(518) 298-7900</b>
Derby Line VT	<b>(802) 873-3316</b>
Detroit MI	<b>(313) 568-6017</b>
Eastport ID	<b>(208) 267-2183</b>
Grand Portage MN	<b>(218) 475-2494</b>
Highgate Springs VT	<b>(802) 796-3703</b>
Houlton ME	<b>(207) 532-2906</b>

International Falls MN (218) 283-8611  
 Jackman ME (207) 668-3771  
 Madawaska ME (207) 728-4565

### *Offices of U.S. Customs*

There is a customs attaché at:

Embassy of the United States  
 of America  
 490 Sussex Drive  
 Ottawa ON K1N 1G8  
 Tel.: (613) 238-5335, ext. 322  
 Internet: <http://www.customs.ustreas.gov/index.htm>

U.S. Customs can be contacted in  
 Canada at:

Calgary (403) 221-1733  
 Edmonton (780) 890-4515  
 Montreal (514) 636-3859  
 Ottawa (613) 523-8120  
 Toronto (905) 676-3399  
 Vancouver (604) 278-7422  
 Winnipeg (204) 783-2062

In the United States, U.S. Customs  
 can be reached at the following  
 border points:

Calais ME (207) 454-3690  
 Houlton ME (207) 532-2131  
 Highgate Springs VT (802) 868-2778  
 Derby Line VT (802) 873-3489  
 Champlain NY (518) 298-8347  
 Ogdensburg NY (315) 393-1390

Buffalo NY (716) 551-5200  
 Detroit MI (313) 226-6061  
 Pembina ND (701) 825-6551  
 Sweetgrass MT (406) 335-2434  
 Blaine WA (360) 332-5771

### *U.S. Tax Information*

For information on U.S. tax laws  
 and regulations as they may  
 affect Canadians, contact:

United States Internal Revenue  
 Office  
 Tel.: (787) 759-5100

Internal Revenue Service  
 Department of the Treasury  
 Eastern Area Distribution Center  
 P.O. Box 85074  
 Richmond VA 23261-5074

In the United States:  
 Tel.: 1-800-TAX-FORM (829-3676)  
 Internet:  
<http://www.irs.ustreas.gov>





CONSULAR AFFAIRS

# *Travelling Abroad?*

**Contact us...**

**For information on  
safe travel issues:**

**E-mail:**

**[voyage@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:voyage@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)**

**Web site:**

**<http://voyage.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>**

**For urgent assistance  
abroad, call:**

**(613) 996-8885**



**3 1761 11552762 4**